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Entrance Requirements to the Kingdom of God
A STRENUOUS EFFORT TO GAIN ADMISSION.

Text. Luke 13:24-28 Strive to enter in by the narrow door; for many, I say unto you, shall seek to enter in and not be able, once the master of the house is risen up and hath shut the door.

Intro. A. Nowhere does Jesus ~~does/Jesus~~ make it easy to enter the Kingdom of God.

The rich young ruler whom Jesus loved.

Another man who said, "Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest."

"Foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man hath not where to lay his head."

Nicodemus. "Except a man be born again he cannot enter the Kingdom of God."

"If thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out and cast it from thee." "If thy right hand offend thee, cut it off and cast it from thee.""

"Not everyone that sayeth, Lord Lord; but he he that doeth."

B. No, Jesus did'nt, but we ~~did~~ try to make gaining the Kingdom easy, and what have we done? We have cheapened religion, vulgarized it, organized it, labeled it, popularized it."

dogmatized etherized narcotized sugarized commercialized yea, even joggled religion

The orthodox way- be baptized, subscribe to the creed of the church and have your name enrolled as a member. If you are a member of the church, you must be a Xn.

The lodge way.

The way of popular cults and systems.

The Xn Science way.

The Coué Method.

I have'nt anything against any of these, either church, lodge or popular cult. I only maintain that none of these is the Kingdom of God as Jesus claimed it to be.

Intro. C. Yes, but is it not true that whosoever will may come? And did not Christ die for all and did He not pay the whole price for us?

Yes, all this is true, but all that God has done is to make it possible for you to save yourself, to enter in. God has done all He possibly can do for you, the rest is up to you.

The railroads have done everything possible to enable you to go from S.F. to N.Y., but you can sit here in Vacaville until you rot and you will never get to N.Y. unless you do something for yourself- get a ticket and board the train. And at that yu'll have to get aboard while the getting is good, for the train runs on schedule time and does 't wait for any man. Repent-test

In addition to having done everything to make it possible for you to enter his kingdom God has endowed you with sufficient intelligence, volition and will to enable you to choose and act for yourself. Neither Christ on Calvary nor your mother's prayers, nor the efforts of the church can save you unless you make up your mind to enter the Kingdom of God and then act upon your determination by striving with all your might to get there.

I. Two entrance requirements.

1. "Repent ye for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand."

All evil must be abandoned and God's sense of right and wrong must be exercised. Old habits must be broken. Hard work. Old standard of right and wrong changed. Past wrongs, as far as possible, must b be righted. Harder still.

The prophets interpreted religion in terms of right living- the righteousness of God. Jesus emphasized amd magnified the same thing.

2. "Except a man be born again he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

Attitudes of mind and desires of heart completely changed so that God's will and Gdvs

love and God's thots can readily express themselves thru your personality.

Aye, with Nicodemus you declare, "How can this be!" It seems so impossible to change one's self so completely.

II. How these requirements can be met.

1. Isa.1:18 Come now and let us reason together: tho your sins be as scarlet they shall be as white as snow; tho they be red like crimson they shall be as wool."

You and God must get together.

Jn.6:37 Him that cometh unto Me I will in no wise cast out."

God is ever ready to help the man who comes sincerely and earnestly.

Ezek.36:26 "A new heart also will I give you, and a new Spirit will I put within you; and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep mine ordinances, and do them."

God stands more than ready to help. He will give you of His Spirit in whom you can overcome all evil and become a son of God, born again unto a life that is godly.

2. You must come believing (Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved) and be willing to use the means of grace by which you can overcome and be born again.

a. Mrs. Stoddard's mastery of the piano.

She desired to learn and believed that she could learn.

She took lessons and practiced them.

At first each piece had to be mastered with great difficulty. For a long time progress seemed slow.

But after keeping everlastingly at

at it there came a time when could play new pieces without great effort, then she discovered that she could improvise and the spirit of music took possession of her and she was born into the musical life.

About the same way we must enter the Kingdom of God.

First, we must desire above all else to gain admission (Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness)

Secondly, we must believe that we can enter and that God stands ready to help us. (Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved).

Thirdly, we must be willing to use the means of grace given us and faithfully practice the lessons of salvation.

(The science and techinque of music.
(The science and technique of salvation)

1. Read and study the Bible.
2. Vital communion with God thru prayer.
3. Association with Xns in and out of the church.
4. Practicing the Xn virtues and serving others.
5. Public confessing and witnessing .
   A musician's appearances in public.
6. Peeping everlastingly at it.
   My loss of the German language.
   Mrs. Stoddard's ability to play so well after learning how years ago because she has always kept up her practice of music. She has always made constant use of it.

Next topic will be-THE FAITH THAT SAVES.